WORLD-WIDE RECOGNITION HEIGHTENS:
Nikki Giovanni, a US Ambassador, Laila Ali and Vicki Winans Comment
About Dr. Thelma Battle-Buckner and Her Shocking New Book Release

“The Battle of a Daytime Nightmare”

On April 26, 2013, Dr. Thelma Battle-Buckner—author of the tantalizing story of her family's rich and arresting 'down South' history—observed her 81st birthday, and celebrated with a launch and signing party for her newly-published book “The Battle of a Daytime Nightmare.” Dr. Buckner is amazed by the overwhelming attention her book has garnered. Internationally-known figures, representing diverse genres find treasure in her family tale. Prof. Nikki Giovanni, super middleweight boxing champion Laila Ali, and gospel singer Vicki Winans have each connected with the author about her inaugural literary offering, and prominent filmmaker David Stevens has expressed a keen interest in working on a film adaptation.

NATIONWIDE: Dr. Thelma Battle-Buckner traveled back and forth to the Southlands in and around East Money, Mississippi, and researched for 27 years to compile The Battle of a Daytime Nightmare, a breathtaking account of her and her family’s journey from 1830 'til now.

The author's actual daytime nightmare took place when on her 12th birthday, three white men drove up to her family's home, and forced $300 on her sharecropper parents for the sale of 80 oil rich acres of land—their children's inheritance to freedom! This robbery has a surprising connection to one of today's corporate oil giants.

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Hers is a saga of a family of sharecroppers (often unpaid) and landowners; of dreamers and leaders who were motivated by a driving spirit to become something better. Today, the Battle-Buckner clan spans America, from Mississippi, Alabama and across other southern locals to Illinois, Ohio, Minnesota and places beyond. The family’s kinship network through marriages and great migrations is astounding. There may be as many as 300 identifiable family members in Minnesota alone.

World-renowned poet, writer, commentator, activist, and educator Nikki Giovanni met Dr. Buckner recently during “Night of Expressions” held at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, whereupon Buckner gifted Giovanni with an autographed copy of “The Battle of a Daytime Nightmare.” Later, in a personal note to the author, Dr. Giovanni wrote “What a fantastic journey!”

Dr. Buckner’s nephew, Michael Battle, ordered his book from Ethiopia, Africa. Currently serving as U.S. Ambassador to the African Union, he remarked, “I have just finished reading Aunt Thelma’s book and am deeply appreciative to her for telling her story in the formal medium of print. Often stories told and kept alive through oral tradition lose their connection with actual fact as the first-hand witnesses die.”

Battle continued, “By transcribing this story as a published book protected by copyright laws, Aunt Thelma has preserved, as a first hand witness, the saga by which she and our families have been affected. Her conclusion that God has been true to his promise of taking care of us is profoundly true. The reality is that Great Grandmother Ida’s statement about her descendants not having to want has also been made true. The difference is that it was not through natural, material inheritance that we have been undergirded. It has been through super natural, divine inheritance that we are continually sustained.

Super middleweight boxing champion Laila Ali also received a copy of “The Battle of a Daytime Nightmare” while attending an affair at University of St. Thomas in St. Paul” that was orchestrated by Dr. Buckner’s granddaughter, Shakira, a recent graduate, and the person responsible for coordinating university visits by prominent individuals. During the meeting, Ali compared her hand size to Buckner's, then asked the author, "Have you ever been a fighter?" Dr. Buckner chuckled in response, saying, “Yes, but I never got paid for it!”

Several other individuals of prominence have found the story to be richly inspiring, including gospel great Vicki Winans, who was excited to meet Thelma Battle-Buckner at her recent concert performance in Minnesota. The author shared a special moment with Winans, who slipped her a bracelet and commented, “You remind me of my mother!”

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Bruce George, Peabody and Tony Award winner and co-founder of Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam on HBO, recently tagged prominent filmmaker and photojournalist, David Stevens to be director of film production for a documentary titled “A Daytime Nightmare: The Shock-U-Mentary,” based on the true story accountings in Dr. Buckner's book. The film will chronicle Dr. Buckner revisiting her Mississippi origins and tracing her sharecropper family's diaspora.

Stevens brings a plethora of experience that includes work for a host of network and cable television stations. He commented, “As a photographer and filmmaker, I am both honored and humbled to be invited to participate in the filming of A Daytime Nightmare."

Alex Haley said to this author …
"During the early spring of 1987, after 20 years of research for this story, I had the great pleasure of meeting Alex Haley in the Twin Cities. We met twice total; once at the Channel 5 TV station. While we were in the green room, we talked about my research. I asked him if he thought I was taking too long. He said, “No, it takes a long time to find the truth and tell it.” We met again in January 1992 at the Hilton Hotel, when he was the speaker for an Urban League breakfast, about three weeks before his death. As he was signing his name on my printed program, he stopped to look at me and said, “I remember you from Channel 5 TV. Don't stop. Finish the book because it sounds like your story starts where 'Roots' ended.” So, I was determined to complete the research."

- Dr. Buckner has shared her own reflections during an interview with Joey Pinkney, host of TRIBE Family Channel™. Listen to Parts 1 & 2 via the archives, and tune in as she revisits on July 25th in commemoration of Emmett Tills' 72nd birthday. They lived in the same house in East Money, MS. [http://www.blogtalkradio.com/gumboforthesoul](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/gumboforthesoul).

- Feature film/TV movie producers, documentarians, film companies are invited to submit story rights inquiries to:

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- Dr. Thelma Battle-Buckner, Gumbo for the Soul Publications and the TRIBE Family Channel are managed by The Dwight Buckner Group. Visit [www.dwightbucknergroup.com](http://www.dwightbucknergroup.com) for more information.

- Learn more about pastor, author, vocalist, and actress Thelma Battle-Buckner, visit [www.thelmabattlebuckner.com](http://www.thelmabattlebuckner.com)

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